



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE DEFINES ZOO EXPANSION, OUTLINES PLAN FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today outlined the County's plan to dramatically improve and expand the Seneca Park Zoo. Following years of study and public exploration, the one hundred and six year old Zoo will soon undergo a transformation to include a bright new entrance, reconfiguration of the parking areas, and the development of a number of barrier free animal exhibits.

Today's presentation followed Doyle's announcement Wednesday at the Annual State of the County Address that the Zoo's ever growing popular demand by family visitors has driven a need for growth that can no longer be ignored.

"During the past several years, annual attendance at the Zoo has reached a half a million people," said Doyle. "What we are unveiling here today is a practical, yet exciting vision for the development of our Zoo that will meet the needs and expectations of family visitors today and for future generations."

Key elements of the expansion include development of the entrance, parking areas, Asian and African barrier free exhibits, an expanded Genesee Trail biome, a tropical rainforest complex, and a wetlands complex.

Working closely with representatives from the County, City, and the Seneca Park Zoo Society, a consultant team consisting of The Sear-Brown Group, Torre/Design Consortium, Ltd, and Economic Research Associates began preparation of a Development Plan in 1997. Numerous workshops and public information meetings were conducted as part of the planning process and today's announcement is the result of that coordinated effort.

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Sear-Brown is the local planning, architecture, and engineering consultant for the new zoo development. In that role, Sear-Brown professionals have worked closely with zoo designer Ace Torre to develop the technical parameters of the development. Torre/Design Consortium, Ltd., a nationally noted environmentally sensitive architecture and design firm, is headquartered in New Orleans and has received numerous awards for its zoo design projects.

Final implementation of the project needs approval by the Monroe County Legislature and will require compliance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement requires the identification and analysis of adverse and significant environmental impacts and will include additional public and agency participation.

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(See accompanying schematics and new zoo descriptions)

*For further information, call:
Bob Nolan at Monroe County, (716) 428-3270
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